WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

India's ranking in UNESCO report

*184. SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UNESCO's Global Monitoring report places India in the bottom of 15 countries, with a low 'Education for All' development index, and India's ranking in the fight against illiteracy has slipped from 100 last year to 105 now;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has pumped more funds into education without corresponding outcome; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) According to the "Education for All- Global Monitoring Report 2009" of UNESCO, India ranks 102nd in the Education for All Development Index (EDI) amongst 129 countries for which this Report has been prepared. India's ranking was 105th according to the same Report for the year 2008.

(c) and (d) During the X Plan Period, expenditure incurred by the Department of School Education & Literacy of the Government of India was Rs 50,234 crore. Budget allocation for the 11th five year plan is Rs. 1,84,930 crore. Enhancement in outlays over the years has also concomitantly witnessed improvement in educational facilities, as is evident from the following indicators:

Indicator	2001-02	2005-06
Gross Enrolment Ratio (classes I - VIII)	82.4	94.9
Dropout Rate (class I-VIII)	54.6	48.7
No. of out-of-school children (in crore)	3.20	0.45 (in 2008)
Gender Parity Index (class I-VIII)	0.81	0.92
Access to primary school (within 1 km)	86.96% (in 2002)	98% (in 2007)
Access to upper primary school (within 3 km)	78.11% (in 2002)	86% (in 2007)

It has been the constant endeavour of the Government to improve educational facilities in the country, including at the elementary stage. Towards this end, the Government implements various programmes and policies, including the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), the Mid-day Meal Scheme and various programmes under the National Literacy Mission.

Environmental impact assessment of hydro power projects

*185. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of environment impact assessment made, specially towards the effect of flood and erosion, including siltation on the downstream of existing as well as to be executed hydro power projects in Arunachal Pradesh and neighbouring countries like Bhutan and Nepal, project wise; and

(b) the details of power shared within the North-Eastern States from the existing power projects as well as projects to be set up in North-Eastern Region (NER), Project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) There is no flood or erosion or siltation effect downstream of any executed or to be executed hydro power project in Arunachal Pradesh or Bhutan. In fact these projects have a flood or erosion moderation effect downstream of the projects. No hydropower project has been executed by any PSU from India in Nepal.

(b) The details of power shared within the North-Eastern States from the existing power projects as well as projects to be set up in North Eastern Region are given in the enclosed Statement.